

Mystery of the Blue Train

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Bound for the Riviera, detective Hercule Poirot has boarded Le Train Bleu, an elegant, leisurely means of travel, free of intrigue. Then he meets Ruth Kettering. The American heiress-bailing out of a doomed marriage-is en route to reconcile with her former lover. But by morning, her private affairs are made public when she is found murdered in her luxury compartment. The rumour of a strange man loitering in the victim's shadow is all Poirot has to go on. Until Mrs. Kettering's secret life begins to unfold...

When the luxurious Blue Train arrives at Nice, a guard attempts to wake serene Ruth Kettering from her slumbers. But she will never wake again-for a heavy blow has killed her, disfiguring her features almost beyond recognition. What is more, her precious rubies are missing.

The prime suspect is Ruth's estranged husband, Derek. Yet Hercule Poirot is not convinced, so he stages an eerie reenactment of the journey, complete with the murderer on board. . . .

Agatha Christie was born in 1890 and created the detective Hercule Poirot in her debut novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920). She achieved wide popularity with *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926) and produced a total of eighty novels and short-story collections over six decades. Twenty-four of Christie's best whodunits are now available from Black Dog & Leventhal as part of their bestselling hardcover Agatha Christie Collection.

Other Books

Agatha Christie. An informed introduction to the Christie phenomenon, updated to include new material on the final Poirot adaptation series and Sophie Hannah's *The Monogram Murders*. Since her debut in 1920 with *The Mysterious Affair At Styles*, Agatha Christie has become the chief proponent of the English village murder mystery. Although she created two enormously popular characters—the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and the inquisitive elderly spinster and amateur sleuth Miss Jane Marple of St Mary Mead—it is not generally acknowledged that she wrote in many different genres: comic mysteries (*Why Didn't They Ask Evans?*), atmospheric whodunits (*Murder On The Orient Express*), espionage thrillers (*N or M?*), romances (under the pseudonym of Mary Westmacott), plays (*The Mousetrap*), and poetry. She was never afraid to break the rules either, and provoked a storm of controversy with the unorthodox resolution of *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd*, now acclaimed as one of the classics of British crime fiction. Christie wrote complex whodunits in a clear, readable style, which is why her books are as popular now as they were 80 years ago. Exemplary film and TV adaptations (Peter Ustinov and David Suchet as Poirot, Margaret Rutherford, and Joan Hickson as Miss Marple), have also encouraged new readers to search out her work. The film, TV, and stage adaptations are listed in this guide, and appendices point readers to books and websites where they can find out more.

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